



THE TOKEN HUNTER

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DEDICATED TO THE COLLECTING, RECORDING, AND PRESERVING
OF UTAH'S HISTORICAL MEDALS, TOKENS, COINS, AND BOTTLES

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NEXT MEETING

Thursday,
May 23, 1996
7:15 p.m.

PROGRAM

KEVIN ANDERSON
Detecting Tips,
Techniques, And
Accessories

PRIZES *** PRIZES ***** PRIZES ***** PRIZES ***** PRIZES**

Promptness Prize 1941-S Walking Liberty half
Grand Prize 1/20oz. Gold Maple Leaf \$1.00 Canadian Coin

1884 Morgan Silver Dollar

Matts Place G/F 50 cents---Helper, Ut.	-----unlisted
Utah State Prison Inmate Store G/F 25 cents---Draper, Ut.	-----LR-1 \$10-\$18
Distilling Liquor House G/F 5 cents---Milford, Ut.	-----LR-9 \$85-\$95
Delta Milling Co. G/F 5-lbs of Wheat---Delta, Ut.	-----LR-7 \$25-\$35
Haran & Heenan G/F 5 cents---Park City, Ut.	-----LR-1 \$8-\$16
Helper Club G/F 25 cents---Helper, Ut.	-----LR-1 \$8-\$16
Nat Loader Berry Check---Pleasant Grove, Ut.	-----LR-1 \$8-\$16
Big George Pool Hall G/F 10 cents---Ogden, Ut.	-----LR-1 \$7-\$18
The Senate W.A. Scudder G/F 5 cents---Ogden, Ut.	-----HR-6 \$18-\$36
I. Takayasu G/F 25 cents---Mohrland, Ut.	-----unlisted denomination
Oscar DeMill & Co. G/F 50 cents---Rockville, Ut.	-----Open
Mutual Coal Co. G/F 1-exploder---Mutual, Ut.	-----HR-8 \$35-\$45
First Day of Issue Envelope/Railroad Stamp	-----

WAGON MASTERS REPORT

By Bruce Dugger

We had 79 entries for the FOM. It looks like several of you Nuts members are taking advantage of this wonderful on/off weather. Some of the things found this last month were really neat. The 1st place winners for the FOM are:

U.S Coin-----	Bruce Dugger-- 1914-D Barber Dime
Foreign Coin-----	Jeral Smith-- 1876 German 2 Pfennig
Token-----	Three Way Tie Between:
	Bruce Dugger-- National Coal Co. National, Ut. G/F 50 cents
	John James-- The Zang, Roper & Mayer SLC, Ut G/F 12 1/2 cents
	Tim Rose-- JJ Simons & Sons-- Wyoming G/F 5 cents
Jewelry-----	Chris Benson-- 1941 Olympus High Class Ring
Artifact-----	Bruce Dugger-- 1934 Babe Ruth Boys Club Pin
Button-----	Jeral Smith-- Utah Light & Railway Co
Non-Metal-----	Bruce Dugger-- A Very, Very Tiny Bottle
Peoples Choice Bottle-----	Bruce Dugger-- Pre-1920 Blatz Beer Bottle
Oldest U.S. Coin-----	Bill Brown-- 1842 Seated Liberty Dime
Oldest U.S. Cent-----	Bruce Dugger-- 1880 Indian Head
Most Valuable U.S. Coin-----	Chris Benson-- 1917-D Buffalo Nickel (\$45.00)
Most Valuable Bottle-----	Bruce Dugger-- Amber Cod Liver Oil Fish (\$20.00)



I guess some of you would like to know where you stand with points for the FOM entries, So here it is for Feb. Through April.

Bruce Dugger-----	87 points
Jeral Smith-----	68 points
Chris Benson-----	54 points
Helen Epstein-----	45 points
Eric Hubbard-----	36 points
Tim Rose-----	33 points
Jim Liddiard-----	26 points
Tim Zuner-----	25 points
Ralph Gold-----	15 points
Jerry Couch-----	14 points
Bill Brown-----	13 points
Jim Jefferies-----	12 points
Brian Westover-----	12 points
Isaac Gold-----	7 points
John James-----	5 points
Mary Smith-----	4 points
Kevin Anderson-----	3 points
Karen Secor-----	1 point

FROM YOUR ACTING PRESIDENT

By Bill Turpela

If you were not at the April meeting, you missed a great display of marbles and a lot of good information on the history of marbles. Thanks again Louise Brown.

As you already know, we are not going to Frisco, Utah, for our annual May outing. However, I am still going to Frisco two or three times this year. It's still one of my favorite places to go even though a lot of folks think different. I've never been to Dragon or the Rainbow area, so I'm sure it will be a lot of fun so long as the weather doesn't turn wet. I understand that you can drive a car there, but it can get bad if it rains.

As you all know, the month of June is our Token Show. As officers, we will be asking for a little of your time as a host or hostess, setting up, and taking down. Please give a little of your time -- its your club too.

I've asked Kevin Anderson to help me at this meeting by being our speaker. He will talk on tips, techniques, and accessories you can make for your detector. It should be fun and interesting. Well, I've said enough for now. See you all at the meeting.



COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I have found that detecting is a lot like fishing. Sometimes you go for hours or days with no luck and than all of a sudden the finds come fast and furious. On a business trip to St. George this month, I had the chance to detect an old ghost town. After three hours of searching in the hot Dixie sun, I had found some square nails and copper rivets from old overalls. I then spent a couple of hours at the old St. George city park and ended up with clad coins. After spending about six hours and finding nothing, my wife asked if I was having fun yet. However, on the way home, I stopped at one of the small towns along I-15 and searched an old, abandoned school yard. Within a half-hour, I had found an 1892 Indian Head, a 1938 quarter, a 1942 and 1939 wheatie, and a token saying "good for a buck" with a deer on the front and the year 1959 on the back. If only every half-hour of detecting was so rewarding.

My best detecting story occurred last October when my brother from California met us in St. George. I took him to a ghost town for some TH'ing. He was using my GTA 500 when he called me over saying he had found something but couldn't pinpoint it. I went over and ran my fingers through the sand. Suddenly, a round, gold object appeared, and I nearly lost my lunch when I saw two clasped hands on one side, an all-seeing eye on the other, the date 1849, and the initials G.S.L.P.C. I had found a very rare, twenty-dollar gold piece minted by the Mormon Church worth thousands of dollars. I started jumping up and down and could hardly speak: "do you know what this coin is worth" I blurted out. "I sure do" said my brother, "I paid two dollars for it this morning at a souvenir shop in St. George."

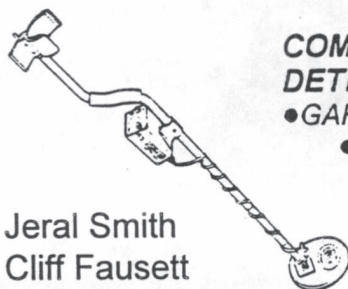
By the way, look for a picture I took of my wife on the cover of July's *Western and Eastern Treasures* (see, I told you anyone could do it).

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COMMON AND UNCOMMON CENTS¹

By Kevin Anderson

Some of the unfortunate, but presently immutable, facts of metal detecting include the following: the depth of a detector is better measured in inches rather than feet; a gold ring reads the same as a pull-tab; and approximately 75% of all coins found are pennies.² While we cannot currently change these facts, we can change our attitude toward our most common find by viewing the lowly penny with a little more respect for its historical and aesthetic significance.

The word "penny" is derived from the Latin word *pannus* that was a type of cloth used as a medium of exchange. Its related words include the German pfennig and the English pence. The word "cent" is from the Latin word *centum* meaning one hundred.

Pursuant to the Mint Act of 1792 (the "Act"), Congress authorized the minting of gold, silver, and copper coins using a decimal monetary system based on a dollar unit. The Act also provided for the construction of a mint in Philadelphia -- the nation's original capital. The Act mandated that all coins contain "an impression emblematic of liberty," and that the reverse of gold and silver coins contain the representation of an eagle. All coins except the penny were to have a metal content approximately equivalent to their face value. To finance the construction and operation of the mint, the Act provided that the penny contain less than a cent's worth of copper. However, in spite of the penny's profit margin, the mint often operated in the red.

LARGE CENTS

The first cent, issued in 1793, was the Flowing Hair large cent -- an ungainly coin almost 27 millimeters in diameter and containing 13.48 grams of pure copper. The Flowing Hair also had a number of political and aesthetic problems. Many considered the design of Lady Liberty to be amateurish and decidedly unattractive. Also, the reverse had a circle of thirteen chain links representing the original colonies; however, many viewed the chain as a symbol of slavery. The designer, Henry Voight, ran out of room on the reverse and had to use the abbreviation "United States of Ameri." Consequently, Voight's coin was quickly discarded in favor of a similar design by Adam Eckfeldt who improved Lady Liberty's looks, fully spelled out "United States of America" on the reverse, and replaced the chain with a wreath design that remained popular throughout the large cent's history. Other large cents include the Liberty Cap (1793-1795), the Draped Bust (1796-1807), the Classic Head (1808-1814), the Coronet (1816-1836), and the Braided Hair (1837-1857). Each of these large cents features a corpulent, but attractive, Lady Liberty.

The large cent was originally to contain 17.107 grams of pure copper; however, Congress immediately reduced the weight to 13.48 grams to increase the mint's profit

¹ This is a proposed article I plan to submit to *Western and Eastern Treasures*.

² See Michael Chaplan, *The Urban Treasure Hunter*, at page 68.

margins. As mint operations remained in the red, Congress again reduced the weight in 1795 to 10.89 grams.

FLYING EAGLE CENT

By the mid 1850's, large cents had become unpopular because their size made them both inconvenient to carry and misleading as to their value (a large cent was almost the size of a half-dollar).³ Furthermore, the rising cost of copper made the large cent unprofitable to mint. In 1857, Congress mandated the creation of a smaller cent that was 19 millimeters in diameter, weighed 4.67 grams, and used an alloy of 88% copper and 12% nickel. The first "small cent" was the Flying Eagle or "cupro-cent" designed by James B. Longacre. The Flying Eagle was unsuccessful, partly because it was the first U.S. coin not to bear a representation of Lady Liberty on the obverse and partly because the nickel alloy was more white than copper which gave the coin an "anemic" look. The Flying Eagle was also unpopular because its sobriquet of "Nick" (from its nickel alloy) also meant a demon or goblin to the religious populace of the time.

INDIAN HEAD PENNY

In response to the failure of the Flying Eagle, Congress commissioned the creation of a new cent -- the venerable and popular Indian Head Penny. The Indian Head has an impeccable pedigree being designed by James B. Longacre.⁴ The Indian Head is unique because it uses an Indian princess as the symbol of liberty. Historians still debate whether Longacre used a real Indian, a statue of an Indian, or his daughter as a model for the coin. The use of an Indian princess as Lady Liberty creates a sad historical irony because, during much of the coin's minting, the United States was often engaged in a bloody military campaign to exterminate the American Indian.

From its first minting in 1859 through 1864, the Indian Head Penny was composed of 88% copper and 12% nickel resulting in the "white" color that contributed to the failure of the Flying Eagle. To create a copper-colored coin, a bronze composition of 95% copper and 5% tin and zinc was used starting in 1864. The bronze Indian Head was readily accepted by the public because of its small size, its more agreeable copper color, and its distinctly "Americana" look. For fifty years, the Indian Head reigned as the common coin of the masses. Indeed, only the country's love and respect for Abraham Lincoln could justify the replacement of the revered Indian Head.

LINCOLN WHEAT CENT

In 1909, Teddy Roosevelt sought to commemorate Lincoln's 100th birthday with the minting of a new coin bearing Lincoln's likeness. Also, it was an astute political move for Roosevelt to associate himself with Lincoln as a fellow Republican. Victor D. Brenner was commissioned to design the Lincoln Wheat Cent (affectionately known among detectorists as

³ In comparison, the Kennedy half-dollar is 30.6 millimeters in diameter.

⁴ Longacre also designed the Flying Eagle, the Shield nickel, the small and large Indian Head dollars, the Liberty Head gold dollar, the Indian Head \$3.00 gold piece, and the Coronet \$20 gold piece.

the "Wheatie"). Approximately one-third of the premier minting bears the initials "VDB" on the bottom of the coin between the wheat sheaves. Indeed, the lucky detectorist who recovers a 1909SVDB has found a real treasure since such a coin in even good condition has a value of \$350.00.

From 1909 through 1942, the Wheatie was of the same bronze composition as the Indian Head consisting of 95% copper and 5% tin and zinc. While its diameter of 19 millimeters is the same as the Indian Head, its weight of 3.11 grams is less than the Indian Head's 4.67 grams. On the VDI scale, Bronze Wheaties read lower than Copper Wheaties but higher than Indian Heads or modern zinc pennies.

In 1943, the pressures of World War II and the need for copper forced the government to issue a steel penny with a zinc coating. Intentionally searching for the Steel Wheatie may be frustrating since they read on an *Id.* meter the same as a steel nail. Furthermore, they are quite susceptible to rust. My own collection includes two Steel Wheaties "detected" in pocket change.

After 1944, the Wheatie was minted with 95% copper and 5% zinc that used recycled shell casings fired against the Axis powers. In 1947 through 1962, the Wheatie was made of 95% copper and 5% tin and zinc and then returned in 1962 to the copper and zinc alloy.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL

In 1959, the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, Frank Gasparro designed a new reverse showing the Lincoln Memorial. Upon close examination of the Memorial Building, one can even see a small relief of Lincoln's statue inside. From 1959 through 1961, the penny used the bronze alloy of 95% copper and 5% tin and zinc. Starting in 1962 through 1981, the penny was made with 95% copper and 5% zinc.

ZINC PENNIES

In an act that proved tellingly symbolic of the government's corroding character, the Copper Memorial was replaced with the Zinc Memorial -- the most inherently worthless coin ever minted by the United States. The Zinc Memorial is made of a zinc core with a thin copper facade that registers similar to a bottle cap. Anyone who has recovered a Zinc Memorial has probably been surprised and then disgusted with the poor condition and the beginning disintegration of this inferior coin. Silver, nickel, and copper coins can last decades and sometimes centuries in the ground, but the Zinc Memorial starts to corrode in a matter of months and can totally disintegrate in a few years.

COMMON CENTS SEARCH TIPS

In rating the conductivity of pennies, I have used White's VDI scale (Visual Discrimination Indication) that runs from -95 for iron targets to +95 for conductive targets. For reference purposes, the following scale will give the relative conductivity of common targets:

<u>Target</u>	<u>VDI No.</u>
Foil	00-05
Nickel	25-30
Pull-Tab and cupro-cents	35-45
Screw Cap	50-65
Indian Head and Zinc Cent	60-65
Copper Cent and Clad Dime	70-75
Silver Dime and Quarter	80-85
Half-Dollar and Large Cent	85-90

Searching for Large Cents is not a problem since their size, weight and composition cause them to read as a half-dollar. If a large cent is in the area, and it is less than a foot deep, there should be no mistaking the reading from your detector.

Searching for the Flying Eagle and copper-nickel Indian Head requires the digging of a lot of trash since they read the same as a pull-tab.

The copper Indian Head reads lower than a zinc cent and about the same as a bottle cap. Therefore, if your discrimination is rejecting bottle caps and modern zincs, you are missing out on Indian Heads. Furthermore, the discrimination will reduce your overall depth. This is why Indian Heads are often missed by less dedicated, but more discriminating, detectorists. On my Spectrum XLT, I use a custom program for older sites that will detect the Indian Head. This means you often dig a lot of trash, but the revered Indian Head is worth the effort. When searching new sites, I have a separate program that intentionally discriminates against bottle caps, zinc cents, and similar trash.

The Copper Wheaties and Memorial Cents read high enough that you should not have problems missing them unless the discrimination is set so high that you start losing depth.

Good searching as you hunt for those lucky pennies.

For any Nuts members who plan on going to the Dragon area on Memorial Day week-end, Please look at the road map in this issue. Highway 45 from Naples to Bonanza would be a better road to take to the Dragon area. Information obtained is saying that the highway from Vernal (highway 40) to Dinosaur Colorado is under road construction and if you use it to expect delays. See ya there.

Wagon Master
Bruce Dugger

